



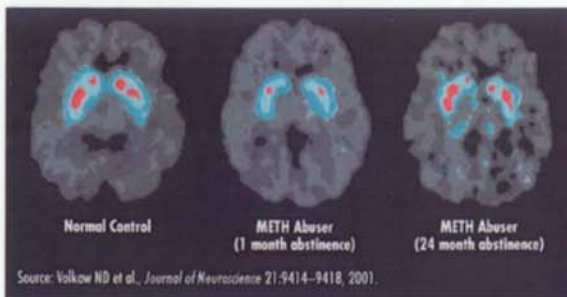
Meth

By Melissa Lane

you get from meth can last 8 hours or more. It can be smoked, snorted, taken orally or injected intravenously . The most popular way is to smoke it.



The term crystal meth refers to its crystalline appearance and the word meth is short for methamphetamine. Meth's chemical structure is very similar to amphetamine, but has a much stronger effect on the user's central nervous system. Meth is extremely addictive and using it causes severe, often irreversible, physical and psychological damage.



Manufacturing crystal meth is dangerous because the process is toxic and potentially explosive. Some users create or cook batches of crystal meth right in their home, basement or garage. They can also buy it off the street. The biggest part of production is done by drug trafficking cartels in the US, as well as Mexico and Canada. Crystal Meth has many street names like crank, ice, tweak, speed, glass, and chalk.

Meth's Impact on Women

Women make up 64 percent of the people that have used meth in the past 12 months. A large amount of



those women are mothers or they are pregnant at the time when

using meth. Using this drug can lead to the loss of education, possessions, appearance, family, friends and children and even lead to the user's death.



Physical Effects of Meth

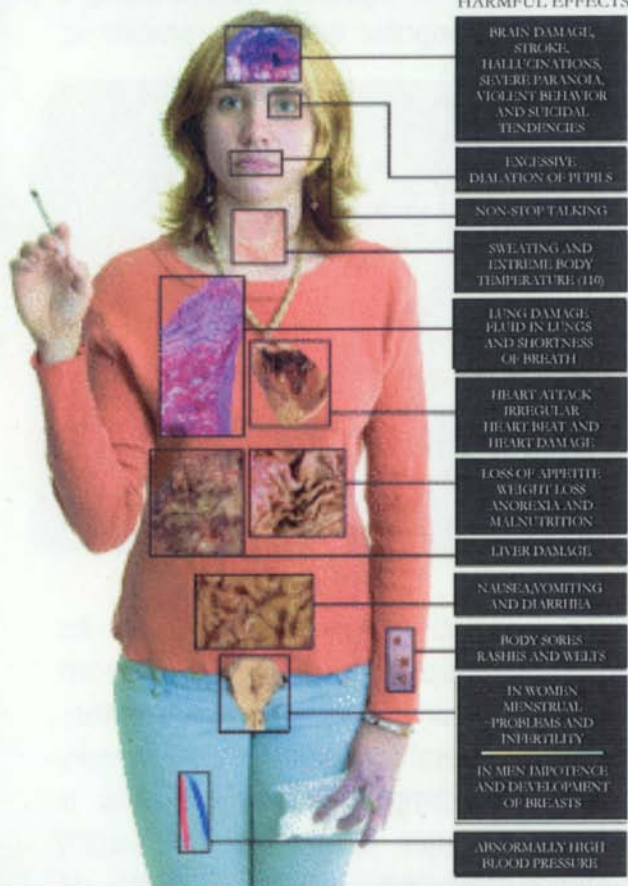
People experience dramatic weight loss when using meth. Meth decreases the appetite but is extremely dangerous. As soon as a user stops using meth, the weight comes back on very quickly. Chronic meth abuse can result in



inflammation of the heart lining. With low to moderate doses, users may have enhanced talkativeness, dizziness, headaches, palpitations, and tremors. Twitching, jitteriness, repetitive behavior known as tweaking, and jaw clenching or teeth grinding. Meth inhibits pain. Meth can attack the immune system so you have a high chance of getting infections of all different kinds, one being MRSA - a potentially deadly infection of staph bacteria resistant to conventional antibiotics.

METHAMPHETAMINE

HARMFUL EFFECTS



Psychological Effects of Meth

In the short term meth causes mind and mood changes. Anxiety, euphoria, and depression. Long term effects can include chronic fatigue, paranoid or delusional thinking, and permanent psychological damage. Psychotic effects can sometimes last for months or years after the user has stopped taking the drug.